

**Amendments to the Claims**

Please amend the Claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A spindle for a door assembly comprising:  
a first member having a base, a first leg extending from the base and a second leg extending from the base, and a semi-circular cavity defining a first tapered portion in the first leg, a second tapered portion in the second leg and a thin section in the base; and,  
a second member having a base, a first leg extending from the base and a second leg extending from the base, and a semi-circular cavity defining a first tapered portion in the first leg, a second tapered portion in the second leg and a thin section in the base,  
the first member confronting the second member wherein the first leg of the first member confronts the second leg of the second member and the second leg of the first member confronts the first leg of the second member.
2. (Previously Presented) The spindle of claim 1, wherein the second leg of the first member is recessed relative to the first leg of the first member.
3. (Original) The spindle of claim 1, wherein the second leg of the second member is recessed relative to the first leg of the second member.
4. (Original) The spindle of claim 1, wherein the second leg of the first member is recessed relative to the first leg of the first member and the second leg of the second member is recessed relative to the first leg of the second member.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Previously Presented) The spindle of claim 1, the first member confronting the second member wherein the first tapered portion of the first member confronts the second tapered portion of the second leg and the second tapered portion of the first member confronts the first tapered portion of the second member.
7. (Original) The spindle of claim 1, wherein the first leg of the first member includes a first pillar and the second leg of the first member includes a second pillar.
8. (Original) The spindle of claim 1, wherein the first leg of the second member includes a first pillar, and the second leg of the second member includes a second pillar.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Original) The spindle of claim 1, wherein the first member and second member in confronting relationship cooperating first and second legs form a seam adapted to receive a set screw for fastening the spindle to a door handle.

11. (Currently Amended) A spindle for a door assembly, comprising:

a first member having a base and a first leg extending from the base and a second leg extending from the base, the second leg of the first member being recessed relative to the first leg of the first member, the first leg of the first member including a first pillar and the second leg of the first member including a second pillar; and,

a second member having a base and a first leg extending from the base and a second leg extending from the base, the second leg of the second member being recessed relative to the first leg of the second member, and the first leg of the second member including a first pillar and the second leg of the second member including a second pillar;

the first member confronting the second member wherein the first leg of the first member confronts the second leg of the second member and the second leg of the first member confronts the first leg of the second member, and wherein the first pillar of the first member confronts the second pillar of the second member and the second pillar of the first member confronts the first pillar of the second member.

12. (Original) The spindle of claim 11, the first member including a semi-circular cavity defining a first tapered portion in the first leg, a second tapered portion in the second leg and a thin section in the base, and,

the second member including a semi-circular cavity defining a first tapered portion in the first leg, a second tapered portion in the second leg and a thin section in the base,

the first member confronting the second member wherein the first tapered portion of the first member confronts the second tapered portion of the second leg and the second tapered portion of the first member confronts the first tapered portion of the second member forming at least one thin outer wall having a seam.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The spindle of claim ~~13~~ 11, wherein the first and second pillars of the first member and second member cooperatively form a bow to provide an interference fit with an opening formed in a door member.

15. (Original) A spindle for a door assembly comprising:

a first member comprising a base and a first leg extending from the base and a second leg extending from the base, the second leg being recessed relative to the first leg, the first member further comprising a semi-circular cavity defining a first tapered portion in the first leg, a second tapered portion in the second leg and a thin section in the base, the first leg of the first member includes a first pillar, the second leg of the first member includes a second pillar; and,

a second member having a base and a first leg extending from the base and a second leg extending from the base being recessed relative to the first leg, the second member including a semi-circular cavity defining a first tapered portion in the first leg, a second tapered portion in the second leg and a thin section in the base, the first leg of the second member includes a first pillar, and the second leg of the second member includes a second pillar;

the first member confronting the second member wherein the first leg of the first member confronts the second leg of the second member, the second leg of the first member confronts the first leg of the second member, the first tapered portion of the first member confronts the second tapered portion of the second leg and the second tapered portion of the first member confronts the first tapered portion of the second member forming at least one thin outer wall having a seam, and the first pillar of the first member confronts the second pillar of the second member and the second pillar of the first member confronts the first pillar of the second member.

16. (Currently Amended) A door assembly comprising:

a door member including at least one bore formed therein adapted to receive a spindle;

a door handle assembly configured for connection to the door member comprising a spindle adapted for insertion into the door member, the spindle having a first member and a second member, the first member having a base, ~~and~~ a first leg extending from the base and a second leg extending from the base, and a semi-circular cavity defining a first tapered portion in the first leg, a second tapered portion in the second leg and a thin section in the base, the second leg of the first member being recessed relative to the first leg of the first member, and the second

member having a base, ~~and~~ a first leg extending from the base and a second leg extending from the base, and a semi-circular cavity defining a first tapered portion in the first leg, a second tapered portion in the second leg and a thin section in the base, the second leg of the second member being recessed relative to the first leg of the second member, wherein the first member confronts the second member, the first leg of the first member confronting the second leg of the second member and the second leg of the first member confronting the first leg of the second member; and,

at least one door handle comprising an aperture adapted to receive the spindle enabling connection to the door member.

17. (Original) The door handle assembly of claim 16, wherein the door handle comprises an aperture for receiving a set screw.

18 (Original) The door handle assembly of claim 17, further comprising a set screw adapted for insertion into an opening formed in the door handle for securely fastening the door handle to the spindle.

19-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) The door handle assembly of claim ~~19~~ 16, further comprising a first escutcheon adapted for connection with one surface of the door member and a second escutcheon adapted for connection with a second surface of the door member.

22-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) A spindle for a door assembly comprising:  
a first member having a base and a first leg extending from the base and a second leg extending from the base, wherein the first leg of the first member includes a first pillar and the second leg of the first member includes a second pillar; and,

a second member having a base and a first leg extending from the base and a second leg extending from the base, wherein the first leg of the second member includes a first pillar, and the second leg of the second member includes a second pillar,

the first member confronting the second member wherein the first leg of the first member confronts the second leg of the second member and the second leg of the first member confronts the first leg of the second member, and the first pillar of the first member confronts the second

pillar of the second member and the second pillar of the first member confronts the first pillar of the second member cooperatively forming a bow adapted to provide an interference fit to secure the spindle in an opening formed in a door member.

25. (New) A spindle for a door assembly, comprising:

a first member having a base, a first leg extending from the base and a second leg extending from the base, and a semi-circular cavity defining a first tapered portion in the first leg, a second tapered portion in the second leg and a thin section in the base, the second leg of the first member being recessed relative to the first leg of the first member; and,

a second member having a base, a first leg extending from the base and a second leg extending from the base, and a semi-circular cavity defining a first tapered portion in the first leg, a second tapered portion in the second leg and a thin section in the base, the second leg of the second member being recessed relative to the first leg of the second member;

the first member confronting the second member wherein the first leg of the first member confronts the second leg of the second member and the second leg of the first member confronts the first leg of the second member, and wherein the first tapered portion of the first member confronts the second tapered portion of the second leg and the second tapered portion of the first member confronts the first tapered portion of the second member forming at least one thin outer wall having a seam.